

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANAA 01261 110823Z

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ADP-00 OPR-02 DODE-00 PM-07 CIAE-00

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R 110745Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2395

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 1261

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, YTTH

SUBJECT:IV NOMINATION SUGGESTION: YAR CHIEF OF STAFF

COL. HUSAYN AL-MASWARI

FOR ASST SECY RICHARDSON AND NEA/ARP

1. EMBASSY HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN WEIGHING MERITS OF INVITING A SENIOR YEMENI MILITARY FIGURE TO US ON A STRICTLY CIVILIAN IV BASIS PURSUANT POLICY AUTHORIZATION CONTAINED A-12334, DECEMBER 21, 1972. WE WOULD NOW LIKE TO PROCEED WITH AN INVITATION TO YAR CHIEF OF STAFF COL. HUSAYN AL-MASWARI.

2. RATIONALE BEHIND OUR SUGGESTION AS FOLLOWS: NONE OF YAR'S THREE SENIOR COMMANDERS HAS VISITED US. CONTINUED COMMITMENT OF ARMED FORCES TO THE REPUBLICAN EXPERIMENT IN YEMEN IS ESSENTIAL TO ITS SURVIVAL. THAT COMMITMENT IS, AS WE KNOW FROM PERIODIC TALK OF MILITARY COUPS, TENUOUS. WE WOULD LIKE REINFORCE BOTH IT AND CURRENT MILITARY GOODWILL TOWARD US. WE BELIEVE US VISIT BY A SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER, IF SKILLFULLY HANDLED AS A CIVILIAN EXERCISE, COULD AVOID WHETTING YAR'S EQUIPMENT APPETITES OR IDENTIFYING US TO ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE WITH MILITARY AID TO YEMEN, WHILE LEAVING OFFICER CONCERNED WITH UNDERSTANDING OF US WHICH WOULD BE CONVEYED TO OTHER MILITARY LEADERS, AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SANAA 01261 110823Z

AN APPRECIATION OF IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO CONTINUATION

OF A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN YEMEN. BY IMPLICATION, OUR DISAPPROVAL OF MILITARY TAKEOVERS, WITH ATTENDANT PROBLEMS FOR YEMEN'S IMAGE AND US ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, COULD BE GOTTEN ACROSS.

3. KEY PROBLEM FOR US WAS HOW TO SELECT THE RIGHT COMMANDER. THEY ARE JEALOUS OF EACH OTHER AND FOR US TO CHOOSE WOULD HAVE BOTH IDENTIFIED THE OFFICER AS A CHOSEN INSTRUMENT AND RISKED ALIENATING OTHERS. ACCORDINGLY, WITHOUT COMMITMENT, INDIRECTLY AND INFORMALLY WE PUT OUR CONCEPT RE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH A VISIT AND ITS CIVILIAN NATURE, TO PRESIDENT IRYANI. WE SUGGESTED THAT IF HE SAW MERIT IN IT HE DESIGNATE ONE OFFICER FOR OUR RECOMMENDATION TO DEPT.

4. THROUGH SAME INFORMAL CHANNEL, PRESIDENT HAS INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTANDS AND APPRECIATES CONCEPT, INCLUDING CIVILIAN CHARACTER AND OUR INJUNCTION THAT IT SHOULD NOT LEAD TO CLOSER MILITARY IDENTIFICATION OR EXPECTATIONS OF NEW ASSISTANCE. PRESIDENT ADVISED THAT AFTER CAREFUL THOUGHT HE WOULD PROPOSE MASWARI FOR USG CONSIDERATION.

5. WE THINK THE CHOICE IS GOOD. OF THE THREE SENIOR COMMANDERS, MASWARI IS YOUNGEST (ABOUT 37), THE MOST PERSONABLE AND OPEN. HE SPEAKS A LITTLE ENGLISH. (IF OUR SUGGESTION ACCEPTED, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO PUT HIM THROUGH SOME INTENSIVE PRIVATE ENGLISH LESSONS BEFORE VISIT, WHICH WE WOULD NOT CONCEIVE AS TAKING PLACE BEFORE FALL AT EARLIEST.) NEVERTHELESS, HE WOULD STILL NEED AN INTERPRETER.

6. RE STIPULATIONS OF A-12334, WE KNOW OF NO POSSIBILITIES OF US MILITARY FUNDING ALTHOUGH WE WOULD HOPE DOD'S COOPERATION COULD BE ENLISTED IN ARRANGING VISITS TO ONE OR TWO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AS ADJUNCT TO REGULAR CIVILIAN VISITOR'S SCHEDULE.

7. IF ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON AND DEPT APPROVE NOMINATION IN PRINCIPLE, EMBASSY WOULD WISH PROCEED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANAA 01261 110823Z

WITH APPROACH TO MASWARI HIMSELF AND WOULD PREPARE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FOR FORMAL NOMINATION, INCLUDING BIO DATA. THERE IS NO PROBLEM RE VISA ELIGIBILITY.

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